

Voluntary - Public

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Research Project on Screening Method for Biotech Events Aim for Cheaper, Faster Results

Report Categories:

Biotechnology

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Report Highlights:

European researchers are working on a 2-year program to develop novel screening methods for both approved and unauthorized events that might be in the EU food and feed supply. The screening methods to be developed are intended to be used in routine biotech event diagnostics.

General Information:

GMOseek – European Researchers Aim to Develop a Novel Screening Method for Biotech Events

The German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) and the British Food Standard Agency (FSA) have funded a 2-year research project (called GMOSeek) that is intended develop new screening methods for approved and unapproved biotech events. The project began in June 2009 and results are expected by June 2011. The result of “GMOseek” is hoped to be inexpensive and fast, broad-based screening tests that can detect the increasing number of EU-approved and unauthorized biotech events that are potentially in the EU food and feed supply. The new screening methods are intended to be used in routine biotech event diagnostics.

Currently, the applied biotech screening methods used in Germany are searching for the promoter 35S and the NOS terminator. The goal of the research project is to identify other biotech event indicators frequently used by the developers of new events. The researchers hope to develop a program which will allow them to identify biotech events using different indicators in a one-stop analysis. This would include any kind of biotech event regardless of whether it has been approved by a regulatory authority.

Project “GMOseek” partners and representatives are:

Gilbert Berben, Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques (CRA-W), Belgium, www.cra.wallonie.be;

Marck van den Bulcke, Scientific Institute of Public Health (IPH), Belgium, www.iph.fgov.be;

Isabel Taverniers, Own Equity of the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (EV ILVO), Belgium, www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/default.aspx?tabid=83&language=en-US ;

Ulrich Busch, Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority (LGL), Germany, www.lgl.bayern.de;

Maddalena Querci, Joint Research Centre – Institute of Health and Consumer Protection (JRC-IHCP), European Union, <http://bgmo.jrc.ec.europa.eu>; and

Dany Morisset, National Institute of Biology (NIB), Slovenia, www.nib.si.

A press release on this project is available at

http://www.bvl.de/cln_027/DE?08_PresseInfothek/00_doks_download/gmo___seek,templateId=raw,propert=publicationFile.pdf/gmo_seek.pdf

The BVL coordinator of “GMOseek” is **Dr. Lutz Grohmann**, lutz.grohmann@bvl.bund.de.